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Announcements.

DAKIN BROS. OF CHINA, LIMITED.

DAKIN'S EXTRACT OF GLYCERINE AND CUCUMBER.

Readers the skin soft, supple and smooth. Invaluable in the NURSERY, indispensable in the TOILET.

It removes and prevents ROUGHNESS, REDNESS, AND CHAPPING.

Its agreeable property of softening, and clearing the skin will be noticed after three or four days use, and by its continued application the complexion will be preserved indefinitely, retaining in the best the fine texture of youth. Gentle-men will find its application useful and soothing after shaving.

Price, 1/6 per 40 and 75 per Bottle. Sander's Eucalypti, or box of Toilet Soap.

A compact and convenient arrangement of Toilet necessities.

Price, \$1.50.

DAKIN BROS. OF CHINA, LIMITED, C. H. M. S. T. S. HONGKONG.

(Telephone No. 62) Hongkong, 14th October, 1889.

WATSON'S SOAPS.

WATSON'S PURE CARBOLIC SOAPS.

THE BEST IN THE MARKET FOR MEDICINAL AND TOILET USE.

Guaranteed to be made from absolutely pure Carbolic Acid.

These Soaps, being specially prepared for use in Tropical climates, will be found most efficacious for cleansing and purifying the skin, and for preventing contagion from Fevers of all kinds, and especially of Cholera generally.

They are as full in value as well as a disinfectant, and will prevent prickly heat, and other skin diseases prevalent in hot climates, and are strongly recommended for general use by all the leading and most eminent Medical Practitioners.

To be had in the following forms to suit all requirements:

STRONG, MEDICAL.

In Single Tablet Boxes:

WHITE, guaranteed to contain 20 per cent of Pure Carbolic Acid.

ROSE COLOUR, guaranteed to contain 20 per cent of Pure Carbolic Acid.

TRANSPARENT, guaranteed to contain 20 per cent of Pure Carbolic Acid.

Price 60 Cents per Box—3 Boxes, \$1.25.

MIDLE M.

Three Tablets in a Box.

ROSE COLOUR, guaranteed to contain 10 per cent of Pure Carbolic Acid.

TRANSPARENT, guaranteed to contain 10 per cent of Pure Carbolic Acid.

Price, \$1.25 per Box—3 Boxes, \$3.50.

TOILET SOAP.

Three Tablets in a Box.

ROSE COLOUR, guaranteed to contain 5 per cent of Pure Carbolic Acid.

TRANSPARENT, guaranteed to contain 5 per cent of Pure Carbolic Acid.

Price, 75 Cents per Box—3 Boxes, \$2.25.

WATSON'S ANTI-SEPTIC DOG SOAP.

In Single Tablet Boxes.

BRINGS SUDDEN DEATH TO FLEAS AND ALL "PICKY" PARASITES.

It is nevertheless perfectly harmless, and may be used without the least fear of any bad result on Dogs of any age, sex, or size.

Price 60 Cents per Box—3 Boxes, \$1.25.

WATSON'S PURE TRANSPARENT GLYCERINE SOAP.

Guaranteed to contain the highest percentage of Pure Glycerine. It is possible to introduce into any Soap. Specially recommended to all who have a very delicate skin easily affected by wind and weather.

WATSON'S PURE OPAQUE TOILET SOAPS.

A varied assortment of favourite kinds; the principal difference between them being more of one personal preference than of quality. All are pure, and the base of all is the same, but the perfumes differ. New kinds will be introduced from time to time, as occasion requires.

PLEASE OBSERVE—Each Tablet bears our Name and Trade Mark, without which none are genuine.

Ask for Special Bill giving full particulars of all the different Soaps we make.

We also keep in stock a great variety of the following well-known Soaps:

ATKINSON'S CALVERT'S, COLGATE'S, LUNN'S, PEAR'S, &c.

A. S. WATSON & CO. LIMITED, THE HONGKONG DISPENSARY, ESTABLISHED A.D. 1841, Hongkong, and September, 1889.

NOTICES TO CORRESPONDENTS.

It is requested that all communications relating to Subscriptions, Advertisements, &c., be addressed to the "Manager, Hongkong Telegraph," and not to the Editor.

Letters on Editorial matters to be sent to "The Editor," and not to individual members of the staff.

Communications intended for publication must be accompanied by the name and address of the writer, not necessarily for publication, but as evidence of good faith.

While the columns of the Hongkong Telegraph will always be open to the free discussion of all questions affecting public interests, it must be distinctly understood that the Editor does not in any way hold himself responsible for opinions thus expressed.

MARRIAGE.

On the 12th inst., at St. John's Cathedral, Hongkong, by the Rev. W. Jennings, M.A., Colonial Chaplain, ALFRED WOOLLEY, Peninsular and Oriental Co.'s service, to MARGARET (Maggie) CROW, second daughter of T. L. Crown, Skelton, England, and niece of C. Ford, F.L.S., Hongkong Civil Service. [1279]

BIRTHS.

On the 13th inst., at 14, Queen's Road East, the wife of EUGENIO F. X. DOS REEMEDOS, of a daughter. [1280]

On the 13th Sept., at Gosport, the wife of Mr. Surgeon A. PATTERSON, R.N., H.M.'s ship "Victor Emanuel," Hongkong, of a daughter, Elizabeth. [1281]

On the 4th Sept., at 87, Cranford-road, Brockley, S.E., the wife of JAMES WHITFIELD, of Hongkong, prematurely, of a son, surviving for 12 hours only. [1282]

The Hongkong Telegraph

HONGKONG, MONDAY, OCTOBER 14, 1889.

TELEGRAMS.

THE TORY DICTATOR SPEAKS.

LONDON, October 13.

Mr. Chamberlain in a speech said that the Government intends to deal in a final manner with the Irish Land question next session.

RUSSIA AND GERMANY.

The Czar visits Berlin on the 10th inst. for two days. M. de Giers will not accompany him.

THE STRIKES IN HOLLAND.

The Shippers are mediating between the Dock Directors at Rotterdam and the labourers; the latter persist in their demands.

A NEW RUSSIAN LOAN.

A new conversion loan for 600 millions of roubles will be issued in December.

THE STRIKE IN HOLLAND.

The strike in Rotterdam has ended, the demands of the men having been conceded.

LOCAL AND GENERAL.

OUR correspondent "Wondering" will make allowance for our holding over his very interesting letter on "Hongkong Shirebrokers and their Charges" until to-morrow, as our columns are completely filled with news items which cannot be set aside. In our next issue we shall give our correspondent's views the attention which, in our opinion, they fully deserve.

THE P. & O. S. N. Co.'s extra steamer *Brindisi* from Bombay, left Singapore for this port at 9 a.m. to-day.

THE returns of the number of visitors to the City Hall Museum for the week ending Oct. 13th, are:—Europeans 181, Chinese 2,077, total 2,258.

THE Java coffee crop this year is estimated at a little over half a million of piculs. The estimate for the west coast of Sumatra is 79,000 piculs.

AS will be seen by a notice in another column, the Band of the 9th Regiment will play at the Ladies Recreation Club on Wednesday the 16th and 30th inst. at 4 p.m.

A PRIVATE despatch from Wuchang informs us that the Viceroy Chang Chi-chung is expected in that city on the 12th proximo to take over the seals of the Viceroyalty of the Hu-Kuang, and that Li Han-chang will not take up the Viceroyalty of the Liang Kuang until some time near the end of next month.

THE *Java Bode* and *Batavia Nieuwsblad* hold that the intended amendment to the coasting trade legislation in Java will only affect foreign vessels carrying cargoes of plant cane. By the law, as it at present stands, the coasting trade is restricted to vessels under Dutch colours. Foreign ships cannot convey cargoes from one Netherlands India port to another.

THE Band of the A. & S. Highlanders will play at the Officers' Mess, Murray Barracks, to-morrow evening, commencing at 8.15 o'clock. The following will be the programme:—

March of the Fens from "Idol's" Sullvan. Vol. "The Fens" from "Idol's" Sullvan. Selection of "The Fens" from "Idol's" Sullvan. Selection of "The Fens" from "Idol's" Sullvan. Selection of "The Fens" from "Idol's" Sullvan.

ONE hundred and nineteen deaths last month amongst infants from convulsions and *trismus neonatorum*. Are there any doctors in the colony? God bless us! they swarm in the place, and yet this wholesale "slaughter of the innocents" is of daily occurrence. Now, whose business is it to investigate and put a stop to this? Nobody's! Of course not! we always thought so.

THE appointment of Mr. Alfred Lister to be Acting Colonial Secretary and Auditor General is officially gazetted. We regret that Sir William de Vos was so badly advised as to make an appointment even though of a temporary nature, which must give dissatisfaction to Mr. Lister, who is a gentleman of high standing. A person with Mr. Lister's equivocal official record should not have been appointed to succeed Frederick Stewart. He has never been a success—not even as local postmaster.

THE Russian transport *St. Petersburg*, arrived at Singapore on the 3rd inst. with no fewer than 760 convicts (so-called), en route for Wladivostok. Convicts! A convenient name for patriots struggling to be free from a yoke of tyranny that is a standing disgrace to humanity. And yet thick-headed fools wonder that Nihilism and Socialism are surely undermining the brutal rule of the Romanoffs in "holy" Russia, and the blood-and-iron policy of Bismarck in the Fatherland. *Mais nous verrons.*

A CORRESPONDENT who is visiting Celebes sends an encouraging account of the operations there. He says:—The managing agents of the Teluk Mining Co. are devoting special attention to these mines, with the result that the first four months' profit amounted to over \$25,000. More than 1,500 hands are employed, and 750,000 are being worked. (Friend Dunlop evidently means business.) We also learn that the general agents of Singapore have received over \$12,000 worth of ore for shipment to Europe from their mines at Celebes.

THE Criminal libel case, Fraser-Smith v. Brandt, occupied the time and attention of Mr. E. Robinson and a numerous body of sightseers at the Police Court this forenoon. As the proceedings are fully reported elsewhere in this issue we refrain from going into detail, and as the case is still *sub judice* we withhold comment; but later on we shall probably have to deal seriously with what we cannot but regard as a growing scandal. The further hearing of the case, for reasons we consider altogether unwarranted, was adjourned until Saturday next at noon, the defendant being released on bail—his own recognisances in \$100.

THE second-hand Government vessel the *Fame* was for a sort of trial-trip on Saturday, pleasure and profit being combined. About half-a-dozen Chinese contractors were taken out to the Gap Rock to have a good look at it and see about tendering for the erection of the light-house. The Hon. Sammy Brown was to have gone, too, but somewhat after the appointed hour, as the breeze was freshening, he sent to say he was very busy. All went well till the *Fame* got outside, and then the Squatter King had a very lively time holding sick contractors' heads. All but one succumbed, and when the *Fame* returned she reached five limp Chinamen—very different from the bloated bondholder kind of individuals they were a few hours earlier—feebly lifted up their heads and glanced at the Rock. Then they tendered some more rice to the fishes. They got back at six p.m., never having landed, and with a firm intention never to do so.

THE Ocean Steamship Co.'s steamer *Stentor*, from Liverpool, left Singapore for this port yesterday morning, and is due on the 19th inst.

THE officers of the A. & S. Highlanders will row the officers of H.M.S. *Mutinee* to-morrow afternoon. Both crews are good, but we have put a half interest in the office galleon on the Highlanders.

THE Spoon Competition at 900 yards in connection with the Hongkong Rifle Association, which took place on Saturday, was won by P.C. D. McLenahan with a total score of 30 points. There were six competitors.

A TELEGRAM which the Spanish Consul has cautiously forwarded states that another depression exists to the east of Luzon. Dr. Delos says nothing about it. The typhoon expected to-day has gone somewhere else.

LATEST reports from the North state that the Yangtze is rising so rapidly that the lowlands are inundated, and it is expected this year's crop will be damaged greatly. The staple food, rice, will be dearer, as well as wheat, which is not likely to be very abundant this autumn.

H.E. LI HAN-CHANG, Viceroy-elect of the Liang Kuang, arrived at Wuhu on the Yangtze on the 2nd inst., and started again on the next day for Nanking to interview Tsung Kuo Chuan, Viceroy of the Liang Kuang. While at Wuhu, His Excellency stayed with his younger brother, Li Taotai.

THE Singapore *Straits Times* states that the American ship *George S. Howell*, which grounded near Arjer when on a voyage to Hongkong with a cargo of petroleum, part of which had to be jettisoned to get her off, has arrived at Batavia. She will discharge the remainder of her cargo there before docking.

A CHINESE passenger on the *Arratoon*, *Apart* went down by the Yangtze on the 2nd inst., and yanked Captain Offent out of his berth a time or two one night. He was chained up till the steamer arrived, and Mr. Robinson to-day ordered him to be looked after. When being removed from the dock he yelled and kicked till he gave four policemen the prickly heat.

It is reported from Hanchow that rain began to fall last night, and the 3rd of last month and it did not cease until the 3rd of the present moon, and during all the time there was not more than 10 hours of interruption. All the creeks rose something like 3 or 4 ft., and the whole place was a vast sheet of water. Cattle, as well as the crops, will suffer; many other places have reported heavy rains.

A JAVAN contemporary tells us that on the west coast of Sumatra certain cannibal tribes in the Battak country have turned rebel under the restraints of civilised rule. Under the influence of Singa Mangarajah, the high priest of the country, they have raised disturbances which have taken a large body of troops to quell. The rebels were defeated with no great difficulty, and the high priest fled. A price set upon his head is expected to result in his capture.

CAPTAIN TAYLOR, of the British ship *Baron Blunt*, who managed to evade cleverly the pirate ashore in the Straits of Rhio, and who had his Master's "ticket" suspended for twelve months in consequence, has publicly protested, and intends appealing against the decision of the Singapore Marine Board of Inquiry to the Board of Trade. He had very much better "lie back" for the next year. In our opinion, which is based on the evidence, he lost a good ship by gross carelessness, and ought to have been suspended for ten years.

THE *Strait Times* reports amongst the Chinese at Kowloon that an officer of the Kowloon Maritime Customs was severely bitten by a poisonous snake a short time ago and would have succumbed to the effects of the bite had not an American *confederate*, following the heroic way of the royal spouse of Edward the first of England when in *Galilee*, put his lips to the bite and sucked the poison, thus saving his brother officer. On duty that Sir Robert Hart, having been informed of this circumstance, has signified his intention of taking note of it in a substantial manner.

WE learn that Mr. Tong King-sing, Director-General of the Kaiping Coal Mines, near Tientsin, and the well-known founder of the China Merchants' S. N. Co., arrived at this port on Saturday last from Shanghai by the steamship *Fushan*, and that Mr. Ch'ue Yan, of Macao, formerly Manager of the China Merchants' Company at Shanghai, also arrived here the same day. These two gentlemen have come to Hongkong, we believe, to take over the whole of the Tam Chow Silver Mines from the old Company, of which Mr. Ho Amel is the managing director. The price paid for the mines, we hear, is a sum of two hundred thousand.

A correspondent who ought to know sends the *Shanghai Mercury* the following:—It is possible that with the opening of next season, the Taku Light and Taku Light Co. will meet with a far stronger opposition than they particularly care for. Two powerful tugs, with twin-screws, steaming 13 knots, with large passenger accommodation and light draught, together with eight self-propelled lighters, to say nothing of the piles of *skibels* to back them up, may make those shares, that were not allotted to Shanghai, look a little foolish. The Tongking Coal Mines will probably be the destination of the fleet after arriving its ends at Taku. I will give you further particulars after the contracts are signed.

THE *Straits Times* of October 5th says:—We understand from Mr. Fraser, who this morning returned from Kuantan, that ten heads of stamps are now at work, and that so many are in course of erection. The delay in getting to work is attributable to the failure of certain contractors to deliver soon enough a powerful pump required for the purpose of getting water wherewith to dress the ore, and in consequence of that delay there had to be constructed a small, but long, aqueduct. Whether any quantity of it may be sent down this season depends on whether the coast closes soon or late; but certainly large quantities of ore will be crushed during the time of the monsoon. We further understand that the Pahang directors refused the already published offer of \$20,000 for a certain part of their territory (Semlising), and that same officers now propose to give \$120,000, one-half in cash and one-half in shares. Mr. Fraser returns to Kuantan on Tuesday.

IT appears that we were somewhat unjust in our sarcastic remarks on the defendant in the breach of promise case *Tofa v. Solomon*, to which we made reference a few days ago. Miss Tofa, Mr. Solomon informs us, is not so good but that she might be a great deal better, and he has further furnished us with a number of well-authenticated details which go to show how easily a man, no matter how clever, may be victimised by a designing woman. No; we are sorry to say that *Tofa* is evidently one degree removed from the *apocrypha*, and it may be doubtful whether she will ever be awarded the golden harp of the pure and lowly. Mr. Solomon was foolish enough to have friendly associations with Miss Tofa, which were apparently misunderstood, and he has quashed an action at law by "sneaking" the lady; he leaves this colony without a stain on his character. Solomon is a good enough sort of fellow—and *Tofa* is apparently "not built that way."

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AN INTERESTING LIBEL CASE.

FRASER-SMITH v. BRANDT.

At the Police Court this morning Mr. Robinson commenced the hearing of the charge of criminal libel made by Robert Fraser-Smith, proprietor and editor of the *Hongkong Telegraph*, against Oscar Brandt, commission agent, 13 Praya Central. Mr. Webber appeared for the complainant, and the defendant relied on his own legal acumen.

Defendant, at the outset, asked to see the information, saying that he only got the summons on Saturday afternoon.

Mr. Webber handed it to him, asking him if he had not a copy of his own letter.

Defendant: I don't admit the letter at all I admit nothing. All the allegations contained in the information are false and untrue.

Mr. Webber pointed out that the time for the defendant to open his case was after the conclusion of that for the prosecution.

Mr. Brandt then applied for an adjournment, in order that he might obtain legal assistance.

Mr. Webber:—Then give me that information back.

Defendant refused, and began to fold it up.

Mr. Webber:—Look here, I want that. I'm not going to have any of your tricks.

Defendant: I don't want any of your allegations; I shall ask the protection of the Court.

Mr. Webber then opposed the adjournment. If defendant had wanted to get legal assistance he had plenty of time to do so.

Defendant rejoined that he had not.

Mr. Webber:—He may be wanting to leave the Colony—this Court cannot be made to play fast and loose for his purposes. I want to call some witnesses, and if he wants to cross-examine he can have them recalled.

Mr. Brandt objected—his legal adviser would not have the advantage of hearing the evidence.

Mr. Webber interposed a remark, on which Defendant complained that he kept being interrupted.

Mr. Webber argued that he could not be heard, as he had no *locus standi*.

His Worship pointed out to the defendant that his lawyer would have the benefit of a full note of the evidence on the depositions.

Defendant: I have another reason for wanting an adjournment—this writ was issued after I had summoned the plaintiff in a civil court on an action (laughter). This is simply a counter-measure for me to get at me in my case.

His Worship replied that he could not deal with that at all—defendant must apply to the Supreme Court. In the matter of libel (he Mr. Robinson) had no discretion—he had simply to see if there was a *prima facie* libel. He admitted that wanting to have legal assistance in cross-examination was a good reason for asking an adjournment, but it was better to save trouble and expense at that stage by going on.

Defendant: I was informed by Mr. Webber that he was going to apply for a remand.

Mr. Webber:—That is a deliberate lie—I tell you direct.

Defendant:—You are certainly a truthful person, and your word is probably worth more than mine in this Colony. But you said it.

His Worship then intimated that after the plaintiff's case had been opened he would adjourn, to give the defendant's lawyer a chance of cross-examining.

Mr. Webber:—The complaint is made by Robert Fraser-Smith, proprietor and editor of the *Hongkong Telegraph*. The libel complained of is contained in a letter written by the defendant to him, which is as follows:—

MR. ROBERT FRASER-SMITH, Editor, *Hongkong Telegraph*.

SIR:—Having read your Leader in to-night's issue, your paper in which you shower most vituperative and malicious abuse over me under the guise of a Public Spirited comment on my recent case *v. Grimble*, I will make the following statements.

1. You deliberately lie when you say that the case was a "Gambling case," well-knowing that my claim was a most just one for the recovery of money wrongfully appropriated by the Defendant.

2. You pervert the truth in your description of the case in a shameful manner, distorting and corrupting the various facts proved in clear evidence in Court, in such a way as to make the whole features appear totally different and disadvantageous to me.

3. You knowingly and deliberately lie again when you devote a whole half column of slush to demonstrating that I never had the chance to take up the shares in a falling market, that I could never take them up, that I played a game of "heads and tails," if you lose &c., &c., knowing

LATE TELEGRAMS.

LONDON, September 19th.
At a banquet given in his honour last night at Belfast, Lord Dufferin referred at length to his term of office in India and to Indian administration generally. Referring to the part played in Indian affairs by the countrymen of himself and his entertainers, he said that Irishmen had imported a vast amount of ability, industry, and valour into the Indian Civil and Military services, and he instanced the Marquis of Lansdowne, Lord Conemaire, Sir Frederick Roberts, Sir George White, and Mr. D. M. Barbour.

He freely confessed that of all nationalities, the inner thoughts and motives regarding the problems of life in the Indian races were most difficult to discern. The changeless East was bound with fetters of caste, and was quite unlike the seething, surging struggle of the entities of a modern European community.

The ex-Viceroy further made eloquent references to the blessings of British rule, and, in a stirring peroration, said that while justice was unknown in other Oriental countries, British protects alike the rights of property, the poorest peasant, and the wealthiest landlord, and, above all, the standards of Western moral obligation had vindicated their authority, and had planted courts of justice throughout the whole of Hindustan.

The friction between the labourers and the blacklegs is at an end. The men have resumed work, and loading and discharging is being briskly carried on.

Owing to delayed repatriation for pillaging the Spanish coasting vessel at Tangiers, Spain has a squadron of ships and ten thousand men under orders.

Spain, it is generally asserted, has long desired to hold in Morocco a similar position to that Great Britain occupies in Egypt.

ST. PETERSBURG, September 20th.
The Grand Duke Constantine is suffering from a severe chest affection which has deprived him of the use of his voice. He has been ordered to the Crimea for a change.

LONDON, September 20th.
The Prince of Wales has been much benefited by his stay at Barmar, and his lameness has entirely disappeared.

The Conservative daily papers here write strongly in favour of the proposal to form a united National Party.

BERLIN, September 21st.
The experts attending the military manoeuvres at Hanover express themselves startled at the effects of the smokeless powder. The infantry volley-firing is irresistible. The discharges of the artillery are very slight; brownish grey puffs are only momentarily perceptible.

PARIS, September 21st.
The Government newspapers admit that the result of the elections is disappointing, but the majority, it is said, will be more compact.

General Boulanger has been interviewed in London. He is in perfect health, and declares that the second ballots will decide his action.

LONDON, September 21st.
Mr. Balfour denies that the Government have any intention of endowing a Catholic University in Ireland.

PARIS, September 21st.
The returns up to one o'clock yesterday show that the Conservatives have majorities in 63 constituencies, the Boulangists in 65, and the Government in 85, in the second ballots.

LONDON, September 21st.
A St. Petersburg correspondent of one of the London papers says that it has transpired that prior to the Czar's departure for Copenhagen a dynamite explosion occurred at Peterhoff Station. A signal man was killed, and it is undoubted that it was an attempt on the life of the Czar.

General Boulanger has been again interviewed, and his opinion has been elicited as to the result of the elections. He admits that he has been defeated, but he maintains his faith in the future.

Captain H. M. Jackson, Royal Engineers, goes with the Survey party accompanying the Anglo-Siamese commission; he is at present in Upper Burma.

TANGIER, September 21st.
A Spanish corvette has gone on Riff with the Sultan of Morocco's officers on board, who are instructed to order the Rifians to release their captives.

LONDON, September 21st.
Mr. Lang, Gladstonian Liberal candidate, has been elected for Dundee in place of Mr. Firth, the deceased member.

CANCA, September 21st.
Many arrests have been made in Crete in connection with a conspiracy that has been discovered against the Government. Two hundred arrests have been made in the Heraklion district alone, including several priests; the Metropolitan has protested in vain to Chakir Pasha against their arrest.

ATHENS, September 21st.
In official quarters the situation in Crete is regarded as alarming; the Christians are hastily leaving the island in consequence of the maltreatment experienced at the hands of Turkish troops.

BERLIN, September 21st.
It appears to be certain that the Emperor William, accompanied by the Empress, will visit Constantinople after attending the approaching Royal marriage at Athens.

MADRID, September 21st.
A petard exploded harmlessly to-day in a field behind the palace at San Sebastian, in which the Spanish Royal Family were at the time.

LONDON, September 21st.
The Operative Spinners' Society at Bolton have resolved to support employers in defeating the cotton corner by obliging men to leave off work for a fortnight in October.

ZAGREB, September 21st.
Captain Wissman has destroyed two of the insurgent camps in Bagamoyo district, and is continuing his march on Mpwapwa.

LONDON, September 21st.
Advices from America report a railway collision at Chicago, in which five persons were killed and ten injured. The cause of the collision was the drunkenness of one of the drivers.

Eliza Cook is dead.

Eliza Cook was born in Southwark in 1818. When only 25 years of age she published a volume of poems which once acquired immense popularity. Though for many years past in failing health, she has written much. Since 1864 she has enjoyed a Civil List pension of £100 a year.

The Athens correspondent of the Daily News says the state of affairs in Crete is daily becoming more critical, the atrocities increasing, Christians being flogged and tortured, the prisons full of persons who have been arrested for creating disturbances, and outrages on women of frequent occurrence; the Turkish criminals going unpunished.

A Constantinople telegram says Moussa Bey's trial is still delayed.

NORTH CHINA INSURANCE CO. LIMITED.

The following is the report to be presented at the eleventh ordinary general meeting of shareholders to be held at the offices of the Company, Hanke Road, Shanghai, on Wednesday, the 16th October, 1889, at 3:30 p.m. precisely.

The Directors have much pleasure in submitting to the shareholders the accompanying

duly audited Statement of Accounts made up to 30th June last.

1888.—The balance at credit of this Account on 30th June was taels 178,250.66, and further claims amounting to taels 29,543.91 have been since entered in the Company's books. The amount of liabilities still outstanding is considerable, but, in accordance with the provisions of the Articles of Association, the usual powers will be asked for the Directors to close up the year's Accounts as soon as practicable.

1889.—The net premium for the first half-year shows an improvement on the corresponding period of last year, resulting in an increase of taels 29,819.39 in the balance carried forward.

The Premium and Losses entered in the Company's books since the 31st June are taels 203,600.00 respectively, which the Directors hope will be considered satisfactory by the shareholders.

By order of the Court of Directors,
W. H. PERCIVAL,
Acting Secretary.

Shanghai, 3rd October 1889.

THE SWITCHBACK RAILWAY.

The grand opening of the Switchback Railway erected in the People's Park Pearl's Hill, was duly performed yesterday evening (2nd Oct.) in the presence of a great multitude of people.

The promoter had set forth that the occasion was to be celebrated by great attractions, and had publicly given a general invitation to all, just after business yesterday evening a large number of Europeans, with their wives, sisters, and lady friends, wended their way to the region of the People's Park.

On arriving at the entrance to the park, Pearl's Hill, at the back of the snake-like railway, was seen to be covered with a vast throng of Celestials and a good percentage of other Asiatics.

Immediately by the side of the entrance to the "switcher," an area of the park—the People's Park—was enclosed, and fenced off with some wire netting. Over the gateways leading into this enclosure were hung placards, placards informing the general public that an entrance might be gained with an introduction of 50 cents. The attractions in this enclosure were to be the "Band of the 58th and the tug-of-war."

It was most amusing to watch each new arrival as he brought up outside this network. The placard seemed to transfix him, but seeing so many of his set inside, admittance had to be gained, and if there was no money available, a cheat was clever and taken.

We are assured, however, that the only reason for the enclosure was to permit Europeans to listen in comfort to the band, and that there was no particular desire to make a profit; therefore it may be suggested that the proceeds from the enclosure, less the cost, should be handed over to some charitable institution. The fun commenced shortly after 5 o'clock with a "tug-of-war" between Chinese and Malays, ten a side. In the first place the latter were not Malays at all, but Klings, and, plied against ten herculean Chinamen, what chance had they to roll over the prize of \$157?

In the next place it was not a tug-of-war, for, instead of standing up, and having a fair pull, the men sat down and promptly dug their heels into the ground for the reception of his hoofs, and in this manner the performance was continued for over twenty minutes. The competition might have been a jest, for it seemed to be worked on a co-operative principle. The Chinese got over the Klings very easily the first time, but changing over, the exhibition lingered wearily over twenty minutes, at the end of which time the Chinese came off the conquerors.

The railway was then set in motion, and amongst the first to travel upon it was the Hon. Major McCallum. The charge for each complete journey was 25 cents, and the cars were kept busy all the time.

In the evening, about six o'clock, the gas jets were lit along the whole line, and the effect was very pretty. From about seven till nine the cars were well occupied with Chinese, and after that the Europeans turned up from dinner and kept things going till midnight. The ascent of the fire balloons was unfortunately spoiled by some persons, who threw sticks at and burst them—but the proceedings as a whole were exceptionally successful.

There can be no doubt that the Switchback is likely to be very profitable to the promoters, and to be a useful amusement in a town where popular amusements are few. It is now open daily at a charge of 10 cents for each journey. On Saturday there is to be a European (20 cents) day.—*Strait Times.*

NOTES FROM CHINESE PAPERS.

The rich iron-mines of Tai'ng-k' Hsien, in the Sze-chow Fu Prefecture, in the eastern part of the Province of Kweichow, are to be closed for three months. It having been found almost impossible to work them owing to their having been flooded by the excessive rains this summer.

The Governor of the Province will shortly memorialise the Emperor to that effect.

The Hu Pao of Sunday, 6th October, publishes a letter from Hangchow addressed to a native charitable society called Jent si shan Tang, (Benevolent Aid Society), calling for help for the sufferers from the floods in the Province of Kiangsi, and making some startling statements about the extent of the distress there. This, it says, is as great as in Honan or Shantung, for it involves eleven Prefectures, the number of people drowned being given as 100,000.

The same paper has a paragraph laudatory of the Viceroy T'ung at Nanking, who it says in spite of his advanced age shows no diminution in energy and activity, the whole of which he appears to devote to ameliorating the condition of the people and removing abuses.

The good Governor General has been much affected by the late misfortunes that have afflicted China, the breaking out of the Yellow River; the floods in other parts and the burning of the Tai'ho Gate of the Emperor's Palace; and when he heard the account of the fire at the Temple of Heaven, he is said to have burst into tears.

Death and distress caused by excessive rain and floods are reported from various parts of China. At Yangchow new rice is at \$2.95 the shih, or picul; old rice over \$3.00; firewood at 200 cash per 100 catties, and bean-oil at \$7.50 a picul, and still rising. A letter from Kuangtung ("Canton") Province says that the distress in the Chao-chow Fu and Chia-yung Chiao districts (up the Hau River from Swatow) is greater than it has ever been since the seventh and eighth years of Hien Fung (1857-8), the sale of women and children by people unable to find food for them in their own homes having become quite frequent.

On 3rd October the Shanghai District Magistrate went to the Temple of the Tutelary God of the City and to that of Kuan-yin, and, holding a stick of incense, prayed devoutly for a cessation of the rain which is ruining the rice and cotton. On his way back, he arrested two men who were fighting in the street and had them taken to his Yamen for trial. He has prohibited the slaughter of animals for food for three days, hoping by this means to make Heaven more

propitious in the matter of weather. In Nan-huai District east of the Huangpuo River it is said, owing to the rain already fallen, three-tenths of the cotton crop will certainly be destroyed, and seven-tenths of the rice crop.

The "Sheng Sien Chi," or "Spiritual Researches," of the ancient writer Kau Pao, of 1600 years ago, says that even a Taoist who has found out the elixir of life runs the risk of lightning after he has lived 500 years, and if the virtuous recluses themselves have no immunity, how should Heaven spare the venomous snake and the obscene and treacherous spider, in spite of all their magical arts and cunning devices? On the afternoon of 20th September, during a rain-shower at Tientsin, a sudden crash of thunder was heard, and it was soon known that at Nan-tai-ze, outside the West Gate, a spider, several tons of years old, as big as a dust-pan, with legs like spears for size, had been struck and killed in the house of a Mahomedan named Hek (Black). His door was soon blocked with people crowding to catch a sight of the uncanny insect whose career had been so quickly cut short. Another instance of the hatred and attraction of lightning towards unclean reptiles occurred at Peking on 18th September, the day the Temple of Heaven caught fire. Outside the West Gate, at Liang-kou Hsiang, a *huan-shui*, or locust-tree, was struck, and in it was found a cast-off snake skin ten feet long, and as big as the square black top of a mandarin-pole, or flag-staff in front of a yamen.

A correspondent at Peking describing the recent fire at the Temple of Heaven on 18th September says: After some excessively hot weather, black clouds gathered on the forenoon of the 18th, and presently came a crash of thunder that made the houses quiver, and the rain descended in buckets-full, and continued till midnight. A lurid light was suddenly described to the south of Peking, as wide as a rainbow spanning the sky, and shouts were heard in the streets that the Temple of Heaven, which is outside the Chen-yang Gate, was on fire. The glare was visible a long time, and on the morning of the 19th September it was known that the superb building called the Ki-mien Tien, was destroyed. It was 100 feet high, in three stories, capped by an ornament shaped like a water-gourd, large enough to hold six or seven men. It was built in the time of the third Ming Emperor, Yung Lo (1403-1425), the wood used being enormous pillars and beams of the perfumed *liang-nan* wood, which filled the air for a long distance around with the richest fragrance as it burned. Some people say that there were snakes and scorpions in the temple, which the lightning was attempting to destroy in order to purify the building. Others attribute the calamity to the presence of an old spider up in the rafters of the roof which had acquired supernatural power by its immense age, and was being hunted by the fire-balls.

The Bitsu-Bishi Steamship Company of Japan were not in the habit of making any reduction of freight in favour of China, until some ten years ago, when, in consequence of a mistake which they made at Nagasaki with regard to a valuable package belonging to a Chinese merchant, they began to allow a rebate, by way of fine imposed on themselves, of 51 *candari* per dollar, which was returned through the agency of the Fukien (Amoy) firm of Tai-Chang. This firm made a further deduction, in the same proportion from the amount returned, and then paid over the balance to the various shippers, whether Cantonese, Kiangsu, or others. No objection was raised until lately, when the Kiangsu Province shippers applied to receive their return direct from the Company into the hands of their guild headmen, and suddenly filed a petition in court to that effect. Mr. Chang, of Kobe, however, came forward as peace-maker and induced Tai-Chang to agree to hand over that part of their agency to the *San Chiang-pang*, or mercantile body of the three, Kiang Provinces (Anhui, Kiangsu, and Kiangsi), during the ninth moon, i.e., in October. It was also arranged that the latter should apologise for the precipitation of their recent action, and that on the first day of the ninth moon (25 Sept.) in a formal manner by their representatives, in gala dress, visiting the Fukien Guild-house, burning incense and performing the ceremony of the *kowtow*, Tai-Chang at the conclusion of the ceremony resigning the agency to them in due form.

The Taijping rebels, whose march left destruction and desolation everywhere behind them, did not spare the grand old Chang-yü Tai' (Pagoda), of Nanking, which had been the glory of the city for 500 years. All that is left of it is the iron cupola that had crowned the building, a noble piece of foundry-work weighing over 1,000 catties, to look at which gives an idea of the immense labour that must have been required to raise it to its elevated position. Rumour has it that many *satirists* (relics of cremated Buddhist saints), and many precious jewels as well, lie buried in the ground below, and lately some countrymen, who were "carrying away" some of

HALL & HOLTZ C. CO., LIMITED.

FURNISHING DEPARTMENT.
WE INVITE INSPECTION OF OUR IMMENSE STOCK OF
CARPETS,
COMPRISING—
NATURAL UNDYED WOOL and MOULLE CARPETS, with RUGS to match;
BRUSSELS and TAPESTRY CARPETS, with RUGS to match; HEMPS, DRUGGETS,
COCOA MATTINGS, LINOLEUMS, FLOOR CLOTHS, &c. &c.
Direct from the Manufacturers.

The above are the finest Goods and best value ever submitted in the East.

"SHOW ROOMS,
37 AND 39, QUEEN'S ROAD."

"THE HALL & HOLTZ CO-OPERATIVE LTD."

Hongkong, 11th October, 1889.

Propositions in the matter of weather. In Nan-huai District east of the Huangpuo River it is said, owing to the rain already fallen, three-tenths of the cotton crop will certainly be destroyed, and seven-tenths of the rice crop.

The "Sheng Sien Chi," or "Spiritual Researches," of the ancient writer Kau Pao, of 1600 years ago, says that even a Taoist who has found out the elixir of life runs the risk of lightning after he has lived 500 years, and if the virtuous recluses themselves have no immunity, how should Heaven spare the venomous snake and the obscene and treacherous spider, in spite of all their magical arts and cunning devices? On the afternoon of 20th September, during a rain-shower at Tientsin, a sudden crash of thunder was heard, and it was soon known that at Nan-tai-ze, outside the West Gate, a spider, several tons of years old, as big as a dust-pan, with legs like spears for size, had been struck and killed in the house of a Mahomedan named Hek (Black). His door was soon blocked with people crowding to catch a sight of the uncanny insect whose career had been so quickly cut short. Another instance of the hatred and attraction of lightning towards unclean reptiles occurred at Peking on 18th September, the day the Temple of Heaven caught fire. Outside the West Gate, at Liang-kou Hsiang, a *huan-shui*, or locust-tree, was struck, and in it was found a cast-off snake skin ten feet long, and as big as the square black top of a mandarin-pole, or flag-staff in front of a yamen.

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the bricks and tiles that encumber the site, found an object, round as a ball, which they thought might prove of value, and so took it home and washed it. It then seemed to them to be a piece of polished crystal; but in the middle of the night the rustic in whose house it lay awoke and found his dwelling illuminated bright as day by a soft lustrous radiance which streamed from the *trouville*. Awestricken and terrified, he roused his neighbours, who looked on in speechless wonderment, until at last one old gaffer found his voice, and said solemnly "It is a *satir*." Then all knelt in reverence and departed. Now heard by the peasant's cot is a dilapidated old temple, in whose neglected precincts had long been seen an ancient bone of outlandish and old-world look, always dressed, day & night, summer and winter out in the same slender cotton robe, never seen to eat, drink, or hold intercourse with man, but known to pass the live-long day beeping on the wooden fish-drum, and intoning the Buddhist litany. This reverend old priest was slowly pacing past the cottage to which the *satir* had been taken early the next morning, and stayed his steps awhile to watch the inmates' rough genuflections and hear their simple prayers as they clustered round the table on which the object of their adoration lay. He pressed his withered palms together, and passed on mumbling his orisons to Buddha. That night there was a drizzling mud-producing rain. The peasant heard the loud roar of a tiger, and crouched quaking under his wadded quilts afraid to stir a limb. Looking out next day there was no spoor of a tiger on the soft earth; but though neither locked door nor window had been disturbed, the *satir* was gone. With a misgiving that the bone had taken it, he went to the half-ruined temple to see. The bone, too, was gone, but in the empty hall where the idols sat was the broad and muddy foot-print of a tiger!

At Taku, near Tientsin, lives a poor man called Cheng, who is always called "Cheng" with the Imprial Rite, or dragon-robe (*lung pao*). He had an ancestor called Cheng Meng-liu, who two hundred years ago in the reign of K'ang Hi earned his living as a fisherman at Taku. In the 22nd year of K'ang Hi (A. D. 1683), that illustrious Emperor visited Taku, on a tour of inspection of the ports, and Meng-liu had the honour to be *tsung-tai* of the junk in which he made and excursion. The wind was at rest, the sky was bright, the water untroubled by the smallest wave, when suddenly some clouds arose on the south-east horizon. Meng-liu's sailorly experience warned him to expect heavy rain and wind, and he respectfully informed one of the Princes, *bei-tsu* and *bei-shi*, who formed the Emperor's suite, and advised a return to port. The Emperor, however, who was in no way deficient in courage, alighted the warning, and declined to have the junk turned. Down came the fierce squall, the wind howled and the waves thrashed the vessel, and the Emperor and his noble *entourage* had soon need of all their bravery to retain their dignified *saufroid*. Meanwhile Meng-liu (*no times*, *Cassam velti*) was everywhere the danger was greatest. Half blinded with spray and rain, he encouraged his hardy crew with voice and gesture, and stood at the helm as firm as a rock on the slippery deck, directing their manoeuvres which ended in the return of the Imperial passenger safe and sound to the Hsai-shin-Miao, the Temple of the Sea-God. Meng-liu presented a sight, ragged and dripping, but Kang Hi graciously asked his name, and Meng-liu prostrating himself and knocking his head, said "Cheng Meng-liu, please your Majesty." Then said the Emperor: "How did you know there was a gale coming on in that beautiful weather? have you studied the science of the sun and stars?" "I have never opened a book in my life," said the old sailor, "and know nothing whatever of the sciences. But on the sea coast, and grown old in fishing, I do know a little about the wind and the waves." The Emperor smiled, and turning to his attendant *loids*, ordered an Imperial robe to be given to him. Meng-liu, respectfully placing the robe on his head all folded as it was, saluted again and withdrew. The Emperor then ordered that a board of honour should be written to hang over Meng-liu's door, with the inscription *Hsai-shin-Yü* "A peerless old coaster," and further an Imperial fan. The board was hung up by the old man to the ancestral temple of his clan. There is little of it left now, but Meng-liu's descendant, who is of the eighth generation since the adventure we have recorded, takes out the fan and the robe every year on the fifth day of the 6th moon and solemnly aspires these precious heirlooms. It is not easy to make out of what manner of pattern is the fan, but the mantle is purple, warmly padded, with a long dragon embroidered on the collar, with four other dragons on the breast and back. When the relic is judged sufficiently aired, it is folded up again in its yellow satin wrapper, and deposited again in the "locker." This old story can hardly be called news; but we record it, as every old man has not been at Tientsin, who has often formed a topic of conversation.

CHINA COAST METEOROLOGICAL REGISTER.

13th October, 1889.—At 4 p.m.									
STATION	Barometer	Thermometer	Humidity	Direction	Force	Wind	State of Sky	Remarks	Time
Wanchow	30.04	78.0	85	SE	1	Light	Cloudy		4.00
Tokio	30.04	78.0	85	SE	1	Light	Cloudy		4.00
Nagasaki	30.04	78.0	85	SE	1	Light	Cloudy		4.00
Shanghai	30.04	78.0	85	SE	1	Light	Cloudy		4.00
Amoy	30.04	78.0	85	SE	1	Light	Cloudy		4.00
Hankow	30.04	78.0	85	SE	1	Light	Cloudy		4.00
Hongkong	30.04	78.0	85	SE	1	Light	Cloudy		4.00
Swatow	30.04	78.0	85	SE	1	Light	Cloudy		4.00
Shanghai	30.04	78.0	85	SE	1	Light	Cloudy		4.00
Amoy	30.04	78.0	85	SE	1	Light	Cloudy		4.00
Hankow	30.04	78.0	85	SE	1	Light	Cloudy		4.00
Hongkong	30.04	78.0	85	SE	1	Light	Cloudy		4.00
Swatow	30.04	78.0	85	SE	1	Light	Cloudy		4.00

14th October, 1889.—At 10 a.m.									
STATION	Barometer	Thermometer	Humidity	Direction	Force	Wind	State of Sky	Remarks	Time
Wanchow	30.04	78.0	85	SE	1	Light	Cloudy		10.00
Tokio	30.04	78.0	85	SE	1	Light	Cloudy		10.00
Nagasaki	30.04	78.0	85	SE	1	Light	Cloudy		10.00
Shanghai	30.04	78.0	85	SE	1	Light	Cloudy		10.00
Amoy	30.04	78.0	85	SE	1	Light	Cloudy		10.00
Hankow	30.04	78.0	85	SE	1	Light	Cloudy		10.00
Hongkong	30.04	78.0	85	SE	1	Light	Cloudy		10.00
Swatow	30.04	78.0	85	SE	1	Light	Cloudy		10.00
Shanghai	30.04	78.0	85	SE	1	Light	Cloudy		10.00
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Hankow	30.04	78.0	85	SE	1	Light	Cloudy		10.00
Hongkong	30.04	78.0	85	SE	1	Light	Cloudy		10.00
Swatow	30.04	78.0	85	SE	1	Light	Cloudy		10.00

At 10 p.m., yesterday, the moon was found to take down the Drum. The bar

